

Claims

1. A method of operating a mobile phone network, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 recording an email address in association with a mobile phone number;
 receiving a text message addressed to said number;
 converting the text message into an email addressed to said email address;
and
 sending the email.

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2. A method according to claim 1, including receiving a text message redirect instruction associated with said mobile phone number.

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3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said redirect instruction is received from a subscriber in advance of said text message.

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4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said redirect instruction is generated after receipt of said text message and in dependence on a non-delivery criterion relating to the unavailability of a mobile station to receive said message.

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5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the text message is received at a message service center and the message service center obtains gateway address data from a database in dependence on the text message's destination address, the gateway address data identifying a text message to email gateway.

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6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said gateway obtains said email address from a database in dependence on said text message's destination address.

7. A gateway apparatus for a mobile telephone network, the apparatus comprising:-

text message receiving means for receiving a text message;

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address obtaining means for obtaining an email address in dependence on the destination address of a text message received by the text message receiving means; and

email means for forming an email from the text in a text message received by the text message receiving means and sending it to the address obtained for it by the address obtaining means.

8. A gateway apparatus according to claim 7 in combination with a database storing a mapping of text message destinations onto email addresses, wherein the address obtaining means is configured to obtain email addresses from said mapping in said database.

9. A method of operating a mobile phone network, the method comprising the steps of:

15 recording an email address in association with a mobile phone number;
receiving a signal addressed to said number;
converting said signal into an email addressed to said email address; and
sending the email.

20 10. A method according to claim 9, including receiving a redirect instruction associated with said mobile phone number.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said redirect instruction is received from a subscriber in advance of said signal.

25 12. A method according to claim 10, wherein said redirect instruction is generated after receipt of said signal and in dependence on a non-delivery criterion relating to the unavailability of a mobile station to receive said signal.

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